

OFFICIAL REPORTS OF SOCIETIES

IN CHARGE OF
MARY E. THORNTON



THE CONGRESS OF NURSES

THE Mayor of Buffalo will give an address of welcome to open our Congress proceedings, and the director of the Pan-American Exposition has fixed Saturday, September 21, as "Trained Nurses' Day" at the Exposition. These are indeed compliments beyond any we had expected.

The directors of the Woman's Union are arranging to give a reception for our guests on the afternoon of September 18. Their courtesy in the affairs of our convention has been great, and we will all be glad of an opportunity to meet them personally.

The Congress Committee repeats its notice that a collection of books, magazines, and papers written by nurses, also constitutions, by-laws, and reports of nurses' societies, will be exhibited in connection with the Congress, and all nurses are asked to send any such to Miss Damer for this collection. Two copies of each article are asked for.

Miss Damer, whose address is 55 Mohawk Street, Buffalo, will receive requests from nurses visiting Buffalo during Congress week to secure accommodations for them. Such requests should contain the exact date of arrival, with the time of stay. The committee desire to say that they have no connection with any other bureau or register for securing rooms. While all such may be and no doubt are entirely reliable, the local committee of the Buffalo Nurses' Association is independent of them.

American nurses who met Miss Mollett at the Nurses' Congress in England will be pleased to learn that she will be the delegate to Buffalo from the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. The Superintendents' Society should have a special interest in Miss Mollett, representing, as she does, its English counterpart, just as our alumnae associations will, no doubt, feel a special proprietorship in Miss Waind, who will come as the delegate of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses.

Miss Cartwright, who is a graduate of St. Bart's, will represent the Registered Nurses' Society, and thus bring one more link to connect us with our fellow-workers.

Miss Keith Payne, matron of the Wellington District Hospital, New Zealand, consents to stand as honorary vice-president from New

Zealand on the Congress programme, though it is doubtful whether she can be present. Miss Payne holds a similar position in the International Council.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Mollett, and Miss Cartwright will leave England on August 29 by the Parisian, Allen Line, to Montreal, and will visit Canada first before coming to Buffalo for the Congress week. They will arrive in Buffalo on Saturday, the 14th, and later will visit Washington and Philadelphia, sailing from New York.

The Congress Committee desires to record its appreciation of the substantial help given to the cause of the International Nurses' Congress by the different nursing journals. They have all done much to stir up interest by their editorials and general policy as well as by the news they have given space to, and have materially aided the labors of the committee. The English journals have been especially active and responsive, and have spared no pains in making the Congress widely known.

DATES OF MEETINGS

THE Associated Alumnae will hold its first business meeting in the morning, Monday, September 16, the Superintendents' Society will have a business meeting in the middle of the same day, and the International Council of Nurses will also have its first business meeting in the afternoon of the same date, all in the Woman's Union.

These first meetings are thus arranged to economize time, and leave Tuesday open for second meetings as found necessary. The International Council of Nurses will require a second meeting, and the Superintendents also, their constitution making it necessary.

The dates of the Congress proper are: Wednesday, 18th, Thursday, 19th, and Friday, 20th, the sessions beginning at nine-thirty A.M.

American nurses and general visitors will be charged an admission of fifty cents, good for the three days.

In answer to many inquiries we would state that the rate of lodgings in private families during the Exposition is the uniform price of one dollar per night. This does not, however, secure separate rooms. Good meals may be had for from twenty-five to fifty cents each.

The head-quarters for nurses during the Congress will be at the Woman's Hospital, corner of Georgia and Seventh Streets, where all will register.

All inquiries for accommodations are to be addressed to the "International Congress of Nurses, Committee on Accommodation, 55 West Mohawk Street, Buffalo."

Nurses are requested to engage lodgings as soon as possible.

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ALUMNÆ ASSOCIATION OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL TRAINING-SCHOOL FOR NURSES

THE ninth annual meeting of the Alumnæ Association of the Johns Hopkins Hospital Training-School for Nurses was held in the Assembly Room of the Hospital on Saturday, May 25, 1901. An afternoon session only was held, as the greater part of the business affairs of the association had been discussed and carried through at the quarterly meetings held during the year at the Nurses' Club-House.

The meeting was called to order at two-thirty P.M. by the president. The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved. The minutes of the quarterly meetings were not read, as the most interesting items of these minutes were embodied in the president's address.

The president, in reviewing efforts and achievements of the past year, assured us that the new magazine the association had anticipated publishing had been very carefully thought out, and is now—theoretically—ready for publication.

Also, that the local association of nurses, the formation of which had been looked for within the past twelve months, is still in the process of organization.

We were reminded of the death of one of our members,—a very much beloved one,—Miss Ellen Wood, and that at her home at Mt. Kisco, New York, an association has been formed called The Ellen Wood Memorial District Nursing Association, and that one of our nurses, a member of her own class, has organized and is carrying on the work there.

During the past year the Association spent one hundred dollars in a share of THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING, and donated one hundred dollars to the Columbia College, as well as fifty dollars to "The Ellen Wood Memorial District Nursing Association."

The reports of the following committees were read and accepted:

The report of the House Committee (governing the Nurses' Club); the report of the Registry Committee; the report of the Committee on Publications; the report of the visiting nurse, and the treasurer's report; the latter was received with great satisfaction, showing, as it did, the excellent financial condition of the association.

After the reports of these various committees, Miss L. L. Dock addressed the meeting on the subject of "State Organization for Nurses: its Advantages, and What had been Done in New York towards its Accomplishment."

In answer to a letter read from Miss Thornton, secretary of the Associated Alumnæ, it was voted that the delegates of this association

to the meeting at Buffalo receive no instructions with regard to the question of establishing an auxiliary membership to the Associated Alumnæ, but be left free to vote as their judgment directs.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Miss Dock for her very interesting address, and the election of the officers for the coming year and of the following delegates to the Congress to be held at Buffalo: Miss Rutherford, Miss Sharp, Miss Carr, and Miss Barwick.

THE NEW YORK POST-GRADUATE ALUMNÆ

THE members of the Post-Graduate Alumnæ held their last stated meeting for the season at the club on Tuesday, June 4. Eight applicants were considered and elected to membership. While it is very gratifying to see the largely increased membership list, we cannot but feel, as we adjourn for the summer, that there are many more who should be with us, for, to quote from the paper read by Miss Dolliver at the First Annual Convention, "It has been suggested to me that the most evident duty of the local associations is 'missionary work,' and is this not true? How are we to enlighten a public as to our responsibilities and requirements, to increase our work in usefulness and honor, unless every one of us puts forth the best efforts towards reaching those graduates of her own school who are not yet alumnæ members and convincing them of their duty in this matter? So long as there is one graduate who is not with us we are weak by so much as her mind, character, and influence are valued at. We are members of our Alumnæ Associations not for personal benefit, but because it is our first duty to unite and organize for mutual protection and improvement, to set an ever higher standard of excellence, and to establish, so far as possible, better conditions for those who come after us."

For the first time since the organization of the alumnæ, it is our sad duty to record the death of a member, Miss Carmel Mary Murphy, who died at her home in the Province of Quebec during the week. One of the brightest and most promising members of the Class of 1901, it is difficult for those of us who saw her upon the night of her graduation to realize that the three years of training was not to fit her for our ranks but a higher life. It would seem that we needed her cheery presence, her contagious mirth among us, and she will be sorely missed.

"*Resolved*, That the members of the alumnæ hold in loving thought the name of Mary Carmel Murphy, who at the very outset of her career has been called upon to lay down her work.

"Resolved, That we her associates do extend our sincere sympathy to her family.

"Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded Miss Murphy's family; that they be inscribed upon the minutes of the association and published in THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING."

DUTCHESS COUNTY GRADUATE NURSES' CLUB,
POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK

ON the afternoon of October 1, 1900, several graduate nurses of Poughkeepsie, New York, met together for the purpose of forming a county association. The following officers were elected: Elizabeth I. Burroughes, president; Martha T. Kamofski, vice-president; Mary J. Blass, secretary; Javinia Walker, treasurer. It was decided to call the association "The Dutchess County Graduate Nurses' Club." A constitution and set of by-laws were adopted placing the initiation fee at three dollars, with a monthly assessment of fifty cents. The room in which the meeting was held was rented from the Young Women's Christian Association at the rate of four dollars a month for one year. It has been prettily furnished by the nurses and their friends. On the reading-table will be found THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING, the *Trained Nurse*, and the *Hospital Nursing Mirror*, besides several medical journals and other periodicals. We have now thirteen members. Our physicians have been most kind in giving us talks and lectures.

Dr. Grace N. Kimball opened the lecture course November 14 with a talk on "Professional Etiquette in the Sick-Room." Since then we have had lectures on the following subjects:

December 7, "Modern Surgery," Dr. J. E. Sadlier; December 31, "The Progress of Sanitation in the Nineteenth Century," by Dr. Elizabeth Thelberg, of Vassar College; March 13, "Homœopathy," Dr. John C. Otis; March 21, "Care of the Insane," Dr. Frederick Mann, of the Hudson River State Hospital; March 29, "Obstetrics," Dr. C. E. Lane; April 5, "Dietetics," Dr. Wood; April 12, "Our City Water," Dr. J. W. Poucher; April 26, "The Eye," Dr. Barnum; May 3, "Bacteria," Dr. F. Peckham; May 17, "Children's Diseases," Dr. J. H. Otis.

The average attendance at these lectures has been six, which is considered good, as all the members have been very busy, many having cases out of town. On Friday, May 31, Miss L. L. Dock, of New York, gave a most interesting talk on the "New York State Nurses' Association," "Registration," and "Nurses' Organizations in General."

A registry and a strong Advisory Board are among the things we hope to have in the near future. We feel that the club has already done much good, both from a social and an educational point of view.

BELLEVUE ALUMNÆ ASSOCIATION, 1900—1901

WITH the last meeting, May 16, closed a very prosperous, active, and encouraging year. Our meetings have been well attended, the members taking active interest in all matters under discussion. Delegates have been present at all meetings of the Albany Convention, and at the business meetings held at Buffalo in preparation for the National Alumnae Association meeting to be held in September.

Some very interesting letters have been received from members in Cuba, Manila, South Africa, and from one who was travelling for pleasure over parts of Europe. Some who have returned from foreign fields have entertained us by relating their experiences and exhibiting curios gathered en route.

Also at the regular meetings a course of lectures was given by Mrs. T. J. Duryea upon "Life and Character Building," Mrs. Duryea being an exceedingly interesting lecturer.

During February and March we enjoyed weekly lectures, clinics, receptions, and entertainments under the auspices of the Associated Alumnae of New York City. Several of the above were somewhat sparsely attended, owing to the fact that notices were received too late to attend. It is to be hoped that another year this difficulty may be remedied.

During the year three members have married, seven have resigned, and we have lost one by death. Fourteen new members have joined the ranks.

As yet our club-house is not in sight; but large bodies move slowly, and this is an important undertaking. The subject is slumbering, not dead.

THE annual meeting of the Nurses' Alumnae Association of the Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia was held in the lecture-room of the Hospital on Commencement Day, May 7, 1901.

Forty-two members were present, and as all were interested in the work of the association during the past year, the meeting was quite an enthusiastic one. Seventeen new members were added to the roll and the following officers were elected: Miss G. I. Milne, president; Miss C. E. Davenport, vice-president; Miss M. G. Revell, secretary, and Miss M. A. Dunlop, treasurer. Miss Annie H. Stirk, with Miss F. Longenecker as alternative, was elected delegate to represent the Alumnae Association at Buffalo in September. It was unanimously agreed that a fair be held in November next, Thanksgiving week, to raise funds towards the completion of the endowed-bed fund. A letter was read from a former member, Miss Foster, Miraj, India, soliciting continued aid for the four chil-

dren at the Mission School who were supported and educated by the alumnæ and their friends during the past year. A sum of sixty-three dollars and a half was collected for this purpose, and several of the members promised contributions later.

THE Alumnæ Association of the Orange Training-School for Nurses held the last meeting of the year May 15 at the home of one of the earliest graduates, Mrs. Frank Mann. Twenty-one members answered the roll-call. Miss Bertha Gardner was unanimously elected delegate to the Congress of Nurses to be held in Buffalo. Various matters were brought up and discussed with interest, and when the meeting closed the members were hospitably entertained by Mrs. F. Mann and Miss E. Pierson.

AT the regular monthly meeting of the Alumnæ Association of the Lebanon Hospital Training-School, held at the hospital May 1, Miss Madeline Cochrane was elected president and Miss D. A. Laffier secretary and treasurer. General business was transacted, and after having elected Miss Cochrane to represent the association at the Congress the meeting was adjourned.

THE Alumnæ Association of the New York City Training-School has elected Miss E. V. Burr, Miss I. B. Yocum, and Miss N. K. Mobbs as delegates to the Congress.

THE Cleveland Association has elected Miss Smythe—alternate, Miss Johnston—as delegate.

THE NECESSITY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF POST-GRADUATE WORK *

“ONCE upon a time” there was a band of speakers going about the country addressing a series of meetings. One particular speaker was saved to break up the meeting and make the people wish to get away and go home. Such is my proud position here to-day.

* Read by Miss Persis Plumer before the Third Annual Convention of the Nurses' Associated Alumnæ of the United States, held at New York May 3, 4, and 5, 1900.

If this were the social meeting of the Blanktown Woman's Club, instead of a solemn gathering of serious-minded nurses, and some of the many guessing games were in progress, it would not be difficult to decide what book this paper represents.

If two papers on the same subject by two people writing independently are not "Twice Told Tales," what are they?

But without further preamble or apology, I will proceed to warm over what has been well said before.

My subject, "The Necessity for the Development of Post-Graduate Work," divides itself naturally into two parts.

First, the necessity. There is just as much need of trying to prove that two and two make four as to prove the necessity of post-graduate training to one who has thought about it. I am speaking now of private nurses, as they are the largest part of our profession, and training-schools were established mainly for that end.

Some of us are blessed with good memories; all, I am sure, are not blessed with good "forgetteries," as a little girl put it.

A private nurse, especially a successful private nurse, tends more and more to specialize, or work for some one or few doctors who have known and liked her work. In this way she gets accustomed to the little ways of each, and while practising some things over and over forgets a large part of what she once knew.

This, with the advance of medical science, and the constant changes it brings, makes the nurse of a few years back decidedly a back number.

The necessity for some method of keeping up with the times is not new, but its urgency is recognized more and more, as nursing ceases to be a new profession.

When I was in training, the venerable doctor, in our graduating address, told us trained nurses were a luxury. I think such a term would not be applied now.

Admitting its necessity then, for those nurses who were well and thoroughly trained in the beginning, but have grown rusty and need brushing up, what shall we say of the imperative need of further study for those whose original training was not all that could be desired?

The report of the Commissioner of Education for the year 1899 gives three hundred and eighty-eight training-schools for nurses in which eight hundred and one men and eight thousand and four women were enrolled as students, graduating during the year three thousand and twenty-seven nurses, New York leading with six hundred and seventy-four, Pennsylvania second with four hundred and forty-five, Massachusetts third with three hundred and ninety-three, and the rest scattered over nearly every State in the Union.

Of these three hundred and eighty-eight schools only twenty-six are represented in this association. One school reports a four-years' course, nine a two-and-a-half-years' course, and the rest two years, except some for special training. In many cases even this is shortened by the pupils being sent to private cases while in the school.

We cannot think too often and too much of what this flood of diplomas means to the future status of our profession.

What can be done to make every nurse's diploma stand for a certain degree of attainment and how to place that mark as high as possible are the great objects of the deliberations of this and all similar gatherings. For this we are advocating State registration, and the Superintendents' Association has been laboring for years for a uniform curriculum.

To make membership in our National Association stand for high attainment on one hand, and how to include those who most need its benefits on the other, are the Scylla and Charybdis between which we have had to steer in organizing.

Admitting the necessity then for post-graduate work, let us consider for a moment its development.

To gain information in this matter, about fifty letters were written to superintendents of the leading training-schools from Maine to California, asking if they had a post-graduate course for their own graduates or others, and if there was a demand for it among their graduates.

From all were received very prompt and full replies, for which I wish to express my deep obligation here and now.

These letters, almost without exception, had the same general purport. Graduates are waking to the need of post-graduate work in all the large cities where competition is keen, and are clamoring for some kind of opportunity to regain lost ground, as well as to add new material to their store of knowledge.

The only exceptions to this rule were a few smaller cities, like Baltimore and Rochester, where, the supply of nurses not exceeding the demand, they are kept pretty constantly employed, superintendents reported no great demand for post-graduate work.

In response to this demand, many of the schools allow their own graduates to return for two or three months and work in the wards. They receive meals, but no other compensation, the cramped condition of most nurses' homes making even lodging out of the question. The Boston City Hospital is the only one that I heard from that pays such pupils. Some, as the New Haven, require the nurses to pay board to the hospital. They work in the wards and observe what is of particular interest to them. This plan, while undoubtedly a benefit, is merely a make-shift, and is not an ideal thing from either point of view.

Nurses who have been their own mistresses (and masters) for years and have gotten out of the way of just the sort of hard work required are not an unmixed blessing from the head nurse's stand-point. While, on the other hand, the head nurse, who is usually a recent graduate, and who is fresh in all the current phraseology (and may I say hospital slang?) of the day often makes the older nurse feel her surprise that certain terms and methods are unknown to any properly trained person, and makes no secret of her poor opinion of such training as the unfortunate questioner must have received.

I do not remember any case where systematic class instruction was given to these nurses, so such residences in the school cannot properly be called a course.

So much for what has been started to brush up the old graduates. There remains to consider what post-graduate study can do for the imperfectly trained. For these we have the special courses, like the Eye and Ear Infirmary and Infants' Hospital in Boston, the General Memorial and Woman's Hospitals in New York, and various maternity and other courses in many places. A few months' post-graduate work in a large city and another hospital makes a wonderful difference to a nurse trained in a cottage hospital in some small town. She may not be as good as if she had spent all her time at a first-class school, but she will surely be much better than she was before.

Perhaps some day the small hospitals will take the relation to the large schools that fitting schools bear to colleges, and a training in them serve for the first year or so of work.

We lose so many splendid opportunities to learn in the daily struggle with unfamiliar duties in the first few months in the hospital! It is so hard to get the work done, we have little or no time to think what it all means, and it is only when the routine has become second nature that we open our eyes to the larger meaning of it all.

A few months' post-graduate work in another school is a good thing for everybody, wherever trained. No one place has all the advantages, and a knowledge of this fact is the surest correction to self-conceit, or school conceit.

I have shown, I think, that post-graduate work is necessary for the old graduate, for the half-trained graduate, and that it is a help to all graduates, old or new. That this necessity has caused a development of such work:

First, by the schools opening their doors to old graduates.

Second, by thirty-four post-graduate courses in special lines of work.

Third, by great activity in *alumnæ* associations along educational lines.

I believe the post-graduate work of the future will come into the hands of the alumnae, as lectures, demonstrations, and clinics are held now in some associations. Superintendents and trained teachers from the college course at Columbia could give the instruction, helped by the doctors, who have always stood ready.

When that day shall dawn, the school commencement will be truly a beginning.

